

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 271334Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2366

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO UR

SUBJECT: TIMING OF MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION MARCH 26 SOVIET EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY ALEXI NIKIFOROV TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT BERLIN MEETING OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST AND WORKERS PARTIES NOW PROBABLY WILL BE "UNTIED FROM CSCE STAGE III", AND "A MAJORITY OF THE PARTIES" ARE NOW IN FAVOR OF HOLDING THE MEETING IN MAY. NIKIFOROV QUICKLY ADDED THAT THIS, LIKE OTHER MATTERS, WAS SUBJECT TO CONCENSUS, AND THEN REITERATED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE PARTIES HOWEVER SEEM IN FAVOR OF THE MAY TIMING.

2. IN CONVERSATION MARCH 27 WITH CHARGE, TOTO'S FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER, ANDJELKO BLAZEVIC, SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD OF THE MAY PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF AS SKEPTICAL
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THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE EUROPEAN

PARTY MEETING PRIOR TO CSCE STAGE III SINCE THEY WISHED TO AVOID ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT GET IN THE WAY OF MOVING TO STAGE III.

3. COMMENT: NIKIFOROV IS AN ADROIT DIPLOMAT AND HE WOULD NOT HAVE MISSPOKEN - IN FACT HE USED PRECISE FORMULATIONS AND REPEATED THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE UNDERSTOOD. BLAZEVIC'S REACTION TO THE IDEA WAS INSTANTANEOUS, BUT HE THEN QUALIFIED IT WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETELY UP-TO-DATE, LEAVING HOWEVER THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD FIND THAT UNLIKELY. ANOTHER POSSIBLE STONE TO THIS MOSAIC IS THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR VLADIMIR STEPANOV CALLED MARCH 26 ON LCY CC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALEKSANDAR GRICKOV TO DISCUSS "QUESTIONS OF RELATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LCY AND CPSU". THE CONVERSATION WAS DESCRIBED BY THE PRESS AS TAKING PLACE IN AN "OPEN ATMOSPHERE" - OBVIOUSLY LEAVING ROOM FOR DIFFERENCES. MILLER

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